

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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### NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations, 333 CMR 11:00, in order to apply herbicides to control vegetation along electric utility rights-of-way, a 5-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) must be approved by the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR). Therefore, notice of receipt of a YOP and procedures for public review is hereby given as required by Section 11.06(3).

A Yearly Operational Plan for Eversource Energy - Western Massachusetts has been submitted to the Department.

Eversource Energy has submitted the following summary of their Yearly Operational Plan (YOP):

The YOP describes vegetation maintenance work to be done on transmission line rights-of-way and distribution line rights-of-way. Maps identify the location of rights-of-way scheduled for treatment in 2017. Sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field are located on these maps including public surface water supplies, and public ground water supply wells and their primary recharge area. Private drinking water supply wells reported by the municipality and made available to the applicant are specified in the YOP.

Herbicide methods including application rates, carriers and adjuvants are presented according to the herbicide application technique and appropriate location. Alternative woody vegetation control procedures are designated as cutting without herbicide treatment and options precluding herbicide use. The companies which will perform the herbicide treatment are listed and identified in the notification given at least 30 days prior to herbicide treatment. Additionally, herbicide applications to rights-of-way in 2016 are subject to a "newspaper-notification" requirement. Target vegetation capable of interfering with the conductors or access is described in terms of desirable and undesirable species. The individual(s) representing the applicant supervising the YOP are provided. Flagging methods to designate sensitive areas on the right-of-way are described with corresponding sketches for public groundwater supply wells, public surface water supplies and wetlands. Herbicide fact sheets as approved by the Department, as well as procedures and locations for handling, mixing, and loading herbicide concentrates are included. Local emergency planning committees are listed for emergency notification of municipal officials.

Municipalities and sites identified in the Eversource Energy YOP as locations where treatment of rights-of-way with herbicides will be carried out during the calendar year 2016 are:

#### SCHEDULED WORK by TOWN

#### **2017 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work**

Scheduled work by town:

Note: T - #'s designate transmission lines scheduled for work.

D - #'s designate bulk-supply distribution lines scheduled for work.

"Brush" followed by a street name identifying location of brush.

"Touch-up" designates a touch-up application only

"Vines" treatments specific to vines climbing on poles or equipment

#### Distribution

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations	Vines
Agawam		D52 Agawam S/S–Suffield St D47 Bear Hole & Taps D44 Eastern States D58 Bondi's Island	Roadsides
Amherst			Roadsides
Ashfield			Roadsides
Becket			Roadsides
Bernardston			Roadsides
Blandford	D34 Blandford to Otis		Roadsides
Buckland			Roadsides
Chicopee		D46 Dwight Sta Loop D48 Spaulding Tap	
Colrain			Roadsides
Conway			Roadsides
Chesterfield	D7 Huntington-Chesterfield		Roadsides
Cummington			Roadsides
Dalton			Roadsides
Deerfield			Roadsides
Easthampton	D70 Gunn S/S-Plain Rd. D2 Midway to NGrid Tie		Roadsides
Gill			Roadsides
Granby			
Granville			Roadsides
Greenfield			Roadsides
Hinsdale			Roadsides
Hadley			Roadsides
Hatfield			Roadsides
Huntington	D7 Huntington-Chesterfield		Roadsides
Lanesborough			Roadsides
Lee	D41 Pleasant to NGrid		Roadsides

	Tie		
Lenox	D39 Holmes Rd to T-Line		Roadsides
Leverett			Roadsides
Longmeadow			Roadsides
Ludlow		D50 Red Bridge	Roadsides
Leyden			Roadsides
Middlefield			Roadsides
Montague			Roadsides
Montgomery			Roadsides
New Ashford			Roadsides
Northfield			Roadsides
Otis	D34 Blandford to Otis		Roadsides
Pittsfield	D37 Oswald to Rte 20 D39 Holmes Rd to T-Line		Roadsides
Pelham			Roadsides
Peru			Roadsides
Plainfield			Roadsides
Richmond			Roadsides
Russell			Roadsides
Savoy			Roadsides
Sandisfield			Roadsides
Shelburne			Roadsides
South Hadley			
Southampton			Roadsides
Southwick			Roadsides
Springfield			Roadsides
Sunderland			Roadsides
Tolland			Roadsides
Tyringham			Roadsides
Washington			Roadsides
West Springfield		D47 Bear Hole & Taps D44 Eastern States D58 Bondi's Island	Roadsides
Westfield	D6 Rte 20 to Gravel pit	D47 Bear Hole & Taps	
Westhampton			Roadsides
Whately			Roadsides
Wilbraham		D50 Red Bridge	
Windsor			Roadsides

### Transmission

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations
Agawam	Agawam S/S – retaining wall and settlement areas	WT-22 Agawam – W. Springfield – CT River WT-24 C.T. State Line- Agawam - Franconia and

		Ludlow - CT
Becket	WT-33 C.T Line – Pleasant JCT	
Blandford	WT-33 C.T Line – Pleasant JCT	
Chicopee	Fairmont S/S – retaining wall and settlement areas	WT-21 Midway – Fairmont- C.T. River WT-23 Ludlow – East Springfield – Granby T.L – Belchertown T.L – Wilbraham T.L.
Easthampton	WT-32 Midway S/S –ElmS/S – Granville JCT	WT-21 Midway – Fairmont- C.T. River
East Longmeadow		WT-24 C.T. State Line- Agawam - Franconia and Ludlow - CT
Granville	WT-33 C.T Line – Pleasant JCT	
Hampden		WT-24 C.T. State Line- Agawam - Franconia and Ludlow - CT
Holyoke		WT-21 Midway – Fairmont- C.T. River
Lee	WT-31 Pleasant S/S – Oswald S/S – Doreen S/S, WT-33 C.T Line – Pleasant JCT	
Lenox	WT-31 Pleasant S/S – Oswald S/S – Doreen S/S	
Longmeadow		WT-24 C.T. State Line- Agawam - Franconia and Ludlow - CT
Ludlow		WT-23 Ludlow – East Springfield – Granby T.L – Belchertown T.L – Wilbraham T.L.
Otis	WT-33 C.T Line – Pleasant JCT	
Pittsfield	WT-31 Pleasant S/S – Oswald S/S – Doreen S/S – G.E S/S	
Plainfield	WT-01 – Berkshire - Ashfield	
Russell	WT-32 Midway S/S –ElmS/S – Granville JCT, WT-33 C.T Line – Pleasant JCT	
Southampton	WT-32 Midway S/S –ElmS/S – Granville JCT	
Southwick	WT-33 C.T Line – Pleasant JCT	
South Hadley		WT-21 Midway – Fairmont- C.T. River
Springfield		WT-23 Ludlow – East Springfield – Granby T.L – Belchertown T.L – Wilbraham T.L.

West Springfield		WT-22 Agawam – W. Springfield – CT River - Elm
Westfield	WT-32 Midway S/S –ElmS/S – Granville JCT	WT-22 Agawam – W. Springfield – CT River - Elm
Wilbraham		WT-24 C.T. State Line- Agawam - Franconia and Ludlow - CT

## **Public Review**

The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), in particular, seeks the verification of sensitive area locations reported in the YOP. The Department itself has a limited ability to survey the geography, land use, and the water supplies in all the communities through which the rights-of-ways are located. Municipalities, however, have most of this information readily available, and the particular knowledge with which to better certify the sensitive areas in their communities. Therefore, the Department requests and urges the assistance of the "affected" municipalities in reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the maps contained in the submitted document. The DAR has established the following procedures for this review.

Yearly Operational Plans (YOP's) and a copy of this notice will be sent by the applicant to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health (or designated health agent) and to the head of government (mayor, city manager, chair of the board of selectmen) of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied along the rights-of-ways during the calendar year 2017. Municipal agencies and officials will have forty-five (45) days following receipt of the YOP to review the maps contained in the document that indicate the location of "sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field" for inaccuracies and omissions. "Sensitive areas" will be defined as in Section 11.02, and exclude wetlands which are to be delineated "in the field" as described in the applicant's approved Vegetation Management Plan (VMP).

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in the municipality qualified to certify the accuracy of sensitive area locations as indicated on the maps. The maps should be corrected and returned to the applicant, also a copy of the maps with these corrections indicated should be sent to the DAR to the addressed listed below, within the forty-five day review period. If a city or town needs more time to carry out this review, it should send a written request for an extension to the DAR and cite why there is "good cause" for requesting additional time.

All corrections will be required to be made by the applicant, and corrected maps sent back to the city/town before the YOP can be considered "approved" by the Department for vegetation maintenance in that municipality. Any dispute on the part of the applicant regarding corrections made by municipal authorities should be indicated in writing to the Department and to the city/town which requested the disputed changes within fifteen (15) days of receipt of that request. The Department will decide whether or not the YOP should be approved without the requested changes. The DAR will consider the "final approval" of the YOP individually for each municipality.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of this YOP within the forty-five day public review period will be considered by the DAR to indicate agreement by municipal officials with the sensitive area demarcations as provided by the applicant in their YOP.

Any questions or comments on the information provided in this Notice and the procedures established for the municipal review as outlined above should be addressed to:

Rights-of-Way Program  
Pesticide Bureau  
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114

Any additional questions or comments on any information provided as part of the proposed YOP should be addressed in writing to:

Anthony W. Johnson, III  
Manager—Transmission Vegetation Management  
Eversource Energy  
107 Selden Street  
Berlin, CT 06037

A copy should also be sent to the Rights-of-Way Program at the above address.

**COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON January 23, 2017**